
HOUSE BILL 2933

State of Washington 60th Legislature 2008 Regular Session

By Representatives Wallace, Kenney, Anderson, Darneille, Roberts, Kelley, Hankins, Hasegawa, and Chase

Read first time 01/18/08. Referred to Committee on Higher Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to assessment of prior learning at institutions of
2 higher education; and creating new sections.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that adult
5 learners entering workforce and academic programs will comprise a
6 growing percentage of higher education enrollments in coming years. It
7 is strategically important, for a vital economy and global
8 competitiveness, to ensure that adult learners move through
9 postsecondary education in the most efficient manner possible and enter
10 the workforce well-prepared.

11 (2) The legislature also finds that Washington must make an effort
12 to more effectively use resources at the state's public two-year and
13 four-year institutions of higher education to facilitate wider and
14 deeper adult participation in postsecondary education.

15 (3) The legislature also finds that adult learners encounter
16 barriers in pursuit of their postsecondary education. Institutional
17 policies and procedures regarding the acceptance of prior learning
18 credits are not aligned with accreditation rules and national best
19 practices.

1 (4) Therefore, it is the legislature's intent to create pathways
2 for adult learners to gain credit for learning from a variety of
3 sources so that college level learning acquired before enrollment can
4 be applied toward academic and workforce degrees.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The higher education coordinating board
6 shall convene a work group that includes representatives from the state
7 board for community and technical colleges, the workforce training and
8 education coordinating board, the council of presidents, and the two-
9 year and four-year institutions of higher education to examine policies
10 related to the acceptance of prior learning credits at institutions of
11 higher education. The work group shall make policy recommendations in
12 the following two areas related to prior learning assessment, giving
13 special consideration to recommendations made by the council for adult
14 and experiential learning and accreditation rules adopted by the
15 northwest commission on colleges and universities:

16 (a) The proportion of two-year and four-year academic and workforce
17 degrees that can be comprised of credits granted through the assessment
18 of prior learning; and

19 (b) The applicability of prior learning credits toward general
20 education requirements and major-specific requirements.

21 (2) The study shall also include recommendations on implementation
22 of the work group's recommendations at public two-year and four-year
23 institutions of higher education.

24 (3) The work group shall report to the appropriate committees of
25 the legislature by December 1, 2008.

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